

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:AOTTO

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P 021959Z MAY 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 106906 TOSEC 110583

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 2361 ACTION SECSTATE INFO  
JIDDA DTD 02 MAY

QTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2361

EXDIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS JO US SA UR

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF (A) AMMAN 2348 (B) STATE 104938 (TOSEC 110537)

1. FOLLOWING COMPLETIONS KINGS DISCUSSION AFTERNOON MAY 2  
WITH VISITINT NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE GROUP I SAW HIM TO  
DISCUSS HIS REPLY TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD'S APRIL 29 LETTER

2. I DESCRIBED FOR KING OUR CONTINUING PROBLEM WITH  
SAUDIS BASED ON AMBASSADOR PORTERS REPORING. I TOLD  
HIM THAT SAUDIS INSISTED THAT DEAL WAS ABROGATED AND THAT

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KING NO LONGER DESIRED IT. FURTHER I AID THAT

SAUDIS HAD INTERPRETED HIS PAST CORRESPONDCE WITH THEM AND ENDING OUR EFFORTS TO WORK OUT A PHASED APPROACH TO FUNDING. I EMPHASIZED FOR HIM THAT WASHINGTON SEES FAHD LETTER AS PROVIDNG AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY THESE POSITIONS. I TOLD HIM WE HOPED THAT HIS LETTER IN RETURN TO FAHD COULD AVOID TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE REHASING PAST DIFFICULTIES, WHILE AT THE AME TIME LEAVING OPEN HIS INTEREST IN THE QUESTION OF THE US HAWK VULCAN DEAL AND AVOIDING ANY LANGUAGE THAT COULD BE CONSTRUCTED AS ABROGATING THE ARRANGEMENT

2. I CONTINUED BY TELLING HIM IN A FEW SENTENCES THAT WE HOPED TO MAKE CLEAR TO SAUDIS ONCE AGAIN BASISC NEED FOR AIR DEFENSE IN JORDAN AND KINGS PAST FRUSTRATIONS AT TRYING TO OBTAIN AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM

3. KING REPLIED BY SAYING THAT HIS READING OF FAHD'S LATTER WAS FINAL ANSWER TO HIS REQUESTS. HE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THAT POINT INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY REPLY THAT HE MADE BUT HE ALSO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION. I PRESSED HIM NOT TO DO ANYTHING WHICH WOULD MAKE MORE DIFFICULT OUR OWN EFFORST WITH THE SAUDIS BECAUSE WE HAD VERY DEFINITELY MADE SOME PROGRESS WITH THEM. I ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT AND VERY HELPFUL FOR US TO AVOID ALLOWING THE SAUDIS TO USE ANY LETTER WHICH HE MIGHT WRITE BACK TO CROWN PRINCE KAHD FURTHER TO FRUSTRATE THE EFFORTS WHICH WE MADE ON HIS BEHALF WITH THEM.

4. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE PINTS THAT I WAS MAKING AND WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN HIS ANSWER. HE TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD SEND ME A COPY OF HIS ANSWER AS SOON AS IT WAS READY TO SEND TO THE SAUDCS SO THAT WE WOULD KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HE HAD WRITTEN TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND SO THAT OUR AMBASYADOR IN JIDDA COULD ALSO BE INFORMED.

5. THE KING ASKED ME WHEN WE EXPECTED TO SEE CROWN RINCE FAHD AGAIN. I SAID THAT THERW WAS SOME INDICATION THAT IT MIGHT BE REASONABLY SOON AND THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA COULD BE PRESENT IN RIYADH IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE KING ASKED ME WHETHER FAHD

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SEEMED TO BE AVOIDING CONTACT WITH US IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT HEAD TOLD CROWN PRINCE HASSAN THAT HE WISHED TO HAVE HASSAN SEE AMBBASSADOR PORTER BEFORE HE FAHD MET WITH AMBASSDOR PORTER. I SAID I DID NOT REALLY KNOW BECAUSE SAUDIS WERE NOT EASILY ACCESSIBLE GIVEN DISTANCE BETWEEN RIYADH AND JIDDA AND WE HAD BEEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR REGULAR WEEKEND HOLIDAYS FOLLOWING HASSANS VISIT.

6. KING THEN TOLD ME THAT LETTER FROM FAHD WAS THE REDUST WHICH HE HAD EVER RECEIVED FROM THE SAUDIS. HE SAID HE WAS THERBY FORCES TO CONCLUDE THAT SAUDIS REALLY DID WANT TO END DISCUSSIONS WITH JORDAN. HE SAID HE DISAGREED WITH ASSESSMENT I LEFT WITH HIM THAT SAUDIS ONLY WISH TO CLARIFY OF PRESETION JORDANIAN OPTION.

6. COMMENT: KING SEEMS EXPECIALLY TO BE SMARTING UNDER SAUDI IMPLICATION THAT THEY KNOW MORE THAN HE DOES ABOUT HIS OWN MILITARY AND DOMESTIC SITUATION CARRIED IN FAHD'S LETTER BY THEIR CITATION OF THE TEXT OF THE CLASSIFIED CIRCLAR WHICH THE KING HAD SENT T HIS ARMED FORCES IN MARCH. CIRCULAR IS OF COURSE NOT TOO KING TO SAUDIS. END COMMENT

7. KING ALSO DESCRIBED FOR ME WITH SOME HUMOR DIS CONFORT OF SAUDI AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY WHO THOUGHT HE WAS DELIVERING A \$520 MILLION PACKAG TO THE KING WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE ONLY \$300 MILLION UNDER SOME NEW RESTRICTIONS AS RELATED IN EARLIER CABLES.

8. I DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION F A FURTHER DEALY IN SENDING THE LETTER TO SAUDIS SINCE I HAD NOT YET RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON ON REFTEL A. WHILE IT MIGHT BE TOO TALE TO RAISE IDEA OF A DEALYED REPLY TO FAHD WITH KING AFTER WE RECEIVE A COPY OF THE TEXT OF KINGS REPLY TO FAHD THAT WOULD SEE M TO BE THE ONE POSSIBILITY STILL OPEN TO US IF THE KINGS REPLY IS AS BAD AS I EXPECTED IT WILL BE. PICKERING UNQTE SISCO

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## Message Attributes

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